



"The great value of international cooperation is not the sharing of costs, but the sharing of minds."— Secretary Richardson.

NIF Day Draws Impressive Crowd. Mike Campbell, Associate Director for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Laser Programs, welcomed a large audience of employees and visitors at NIF Day, June 11. He then introduced LLNL Director Bruce Tarter, who presided over the ceremonies. Tarter provided a brief history of the NIF (National Ignition Facility) and spoke of the target chamber's significance. "This is one of the most visible manifestations of the tools necessary to perform stockpile stewardship," he said. He added that the NIF would also fulfill all aspects of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) missions: national security, science, energy, and the environment.

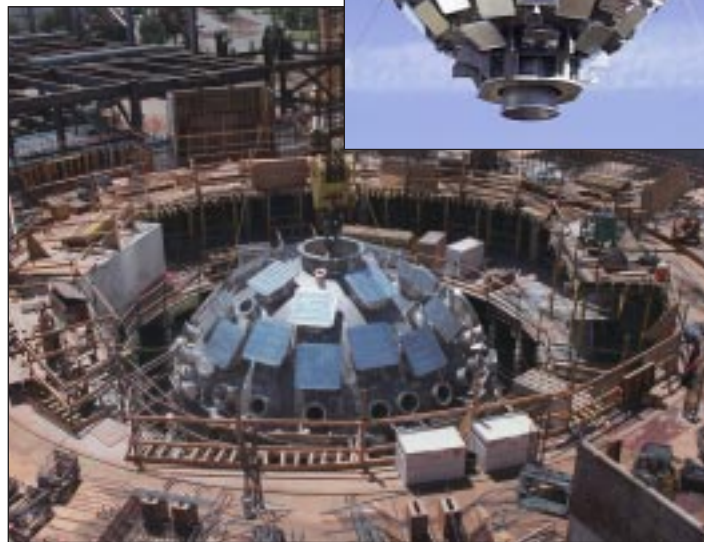
DOE Secretary Bill Richardson followed Tarter, noting that "NIF is the biggest science project under construction in the U.S. NIF will create a new standard for technological achievement." Richardson also stated that "NIF will be used to keep the nuclear arsenal safe without nuclear testing, making it crucial to keeping the nuclear deterrent reliable while advancing science."

Following Richardson's remarks, Jacque Bouchard, Director for Military Applications at Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique in France, and Graham Jordan, Deputy Under Secretary for Science, Ministry of Defense, United Kingdom, addressed the NIF Day crowd. "I wish the achievement of NIF and LMJ a complete success," said Bouchard. "I am confident in the validity of our basic assumptions, on the utility of laser experiments for science and peace." Jordan congratulated the NIF team, adding

that "this joint venture, which is vital to both our nuclear deterrent programs, will further cement the very close and productive relationships which the United Kingdom and the United States have enjoyed in nuclear defense matters for over 40 years."

Other speakers were Wayne Kennedy, Senior Vice President for Business and Finance, University of California (UC), and Cathie Brown, Mayor of Livermore. Guests included Marty Domagala, DOE/Oakland Operations Office; Sue Johnson, UC Regent; Vic Reis, Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs, DOE; and LLNL Director Emeritus Edward Teller.

Target Chamber Milestone Reached. NIF Day celebrated the on-time completion of the NIF target chamber, where nuclear explosion simulations and fusion energy and other scientific experiments will take place. The 150-ton, 35-foot-diameter target chamber was built by Pitt-Des Moines Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA. On June 17, a specialized Manitowoc 4600 Ringer crane moved the 150-ton NIF target chamber into the target area portion of the Laser and Target Area Building, constructed by Nielsen Dillingham of Pleasanton, CA. The target chamber will receive over 400,000 pounds of optics equipment and a 400,000-pound concrete covering in the upcoming months.



The 150-ton, 35-ft-diam NIF target chamber moves toward the target area building (see inset). The Manitowoc supercrane places the NIF target chamber into its final position.